MORE PRECISELY, A FORMER COUNTER-FEITER.

HE JOINED THE TEMPLE AND WAS REFORMING HIMSELF...

BUT NOW HE'S BEEN DRAWN BACK TO HIS OLD WAYS.

蔵

KURA

SO THE MONK FROM NANZENJI TURNED OUT TO BE A COUNTER-FEITER?!

ART BY ICHIHA AKIZUKI
WRITTEN BY MAI MOCHIZUKI
CHARACTER DESIGNS BY SHIZU YAMAUCHI

WELL, THE ENCOUNTER WASN'T UNLIKE MEETING A YOKAI.

I WAS SURE YOU'D GONE TO SEE SOME MOVIE.

YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT YOKAI WHEN YOU GOT BACK...

CHAPTER 17: ONE WISH

Put this on the top shelf, if you will.

S-Sure.

GULP

I SIMPLY THOUGHT I SHOULD APPRISE YOU OF THE SITUATION.

BUT I'M THE ONE ENSHO HAS PICKED HIS FIGHT WITH.

IT DOESN'T INVOLVE YOU IN ANY WAY, AOI-SAN.

INCREDI-BLE?

HE SOUNDS PRETTY INCREDI-BLE.

BUT... I DON'T KNOW...

TRUE.

BUT THIS MAN WANTED TO CHALLENGE YOU SO BADLY THAT HE REVEALED HIMSELF...

AFTER BEING EXPOSED, A NORMAL COUNTERFEITER WOULD QUIT OR GO INTO HIDING.

I SUSPECT THAT ENSHO...

KNOCK KNOCK

AKIHITO-SAN!

I JUST HAD SOME FREE TIME FROM WORK, SO I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY.

Of course I do!

WE'VE BEEN SEEING AN AWFUL LOT OF YOU... HAVE YOU NOTHING BETTER TO DO?

...

YEAH, IT'S NOT BAD.

IT SOUNDS LIKE WORK IS GOING WELL, AKIHITO-SAN.

SUZUMUSHI TEMPLE?

BY THE WAY, HOLMES ...

HAVE YOU HEARD OF SUZUMUSHI TEMPLE?

AND ITS JIZO STATUE IS FAMOUS FOR ITS ICHIGAN JOJU.

"ICHIGAN JOJU"?

IT'S KNOWN FOR ITS YEAR-ROUND CHORUS OF CRICKETS.

ALSO, ITS PROPER NAME IS KEGONJI.

鈴蟲の寺

OF COURSE I HAVE.

IT MEANS THAT THE STATUE GRANTS A WISH TO EACH VISITOR,

AND THEY SAY SAID WISHES OFTEN COME TRUE.

HEY, COULD WE GO CHECK IT OUT?

THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!

YOU MUST NOT TAKE SUZU-MUSHI SO LIGHTLY.

F-FOR A TEMPLE?!

And three or more hours during Golden Week

ON WEEKENDS IN THIS SEASON OF CHANGING LEAVES AND FIELD TRIPS, YOU CAN COUNT ON AN HOUR WAIT.

IT'S A SMALL TEMPLE, BUT LONG LINES ARE GUARAN-TEED.

WOW...

SO A GREAT MANY VISITORS COME TO ASK ITS JIZO FOR BLESS-INGS.

AND THE MORE PEOPLE COME, THE LONGER THE WAIT.

PEOPLE OFTEN CREDIT SUZUMUSHI TEMPLE FOR GETTING JOBS...

YOU'RE AWFULLY OPTIMISTIC.

WHAT IS IT YOU'RE WISHING FOR SO EARNESTLY?

BUT IF IT'S THAT POPULAR,

THEN IT REALLY MUST GRANT WISHES, RIGHT?!

I DUNNO ABOUT EARNEST, BUT...

I see.

YOU'RE GETTING MORE WORK, BUT YOU'RE STILL ANXIOUS ABOUT HOW UNPREDICTABLE THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY IS.

QUIT PSYCHO-ANALYZING ME!

SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

PLEASE LET ME MAKE IT BIG IN SHOWBIZ!

OF COURSE THERE IS.

GRANTED...

I MEAN, COME ON. ISN'T THERE ANYTHING YOU WISH FOR?

THAT'S THE PROBLEM?!

IT'S DIFFICULT TO PICK JUST ONE THING.

A MAN AS SELFISH AS I AM WISHES FOR A GREAT DEAL.

SERI-OUSLY?

AM I THE ONLY ONE JUST THINKING ABOUT MYSELF?

HAPPIN-ESS FOR MY FAMILY, MAYBE?

I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'D PICK...

IT IS HARD TO NARROW IT DOWN TO JUST ONE THING...

IF YOU WORK HARD IN PURSUIT OF IT, I'M SURE THE STATUE WILL AID YOU.

CLEARLY FORMED WISHES ARE THE EASIEST TO GRANT.

YOURS IS BOTH A DESIRE AND A GOAL.

THAT'S NOT A BAD THING, YOU KNOW.

R-RIGHT...

AS FAR AS GOALS I MYSELF WANT TO REALIZE...

ONE THING IN PARTICULAR DOES COME TO MIND.

WHAT'S THAT?

I WISH TO DEFEAT ENSHO.

ALTHOUGH... I'M SURE NO HIGHER POWER WOULD GRANT ME THAT.

SO IT'S NOT QUITE APPROP-RIATE.

It's still bothering Holmes-san.

He must've really gotten to him...

Ensho...

I wonder what he was after.

Ensho intentionally appeared before Holmes-san to challenge him...

JUST WHAT IS ENSHO AFTER?

AH, YES.

I WAS MERELY SPECULATING ABOUT HIS EARLY LIFE.

WHAT, LIKE WHAT MADE HIM WHO HE IS AND STUFF?

THAT REMINDS ME, HOLMES-SAN...

YOU STARTED TO SAY SOME-THING ABOUT ENSHO EARLIER...

FOR HIM, COUNTERFEITING WAS LIKELY A MEANS OF SURVIVAL.

AT THE SAME TIME, REALIZING HIS PRODIGIOUS TALENT GAVE HIM CONFIDENCE.

I IMAGINE HE GREW UP IMPOVERISHED.

WELL, HE SEEMS TO BE CONSTANTLY GAUGING OTHERS.

AND WITHOUT ANY OTHER CLOSE RELATIVES, HE'S NOW ALL ALONE IN THE WORLD.

BUT HIS FATHER HAS SINCE PASSED AWAY...

HIS FATHER'S INFLUENCE, PERHAPS.

THE ONE WHO STARTED HIM DOWN THAT ROAD WAS LIKELY A CLOSE RELATIVE...

H-HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?!

YES, I THINK THAT ABOUT COVERS IT.

是無等等呪能除一

IT'S NOT A HABIT HE WOULD HAVE DEVELOPED OTHERWISE.

IT'S BECAUSE HE'S BEEN SO FIXATED ON THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM FROM A YOUNG AGE...

HIS MIMICRY IS SOMETHING HE DOES UNCONSCIOUSLY.

PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY ALLOWED HIM TO MAKE A LIFE FOR HIMSELF.

THIS SUGGESTS HIS COUNTERFEITING TALENTS ARE A SOURCE OF PRIDE FOR HIM.

BUT NEVERTHELESS, HE'S BOLD AND FULL OF CONFIDENCE.

BUT AFTER MASTERING COUNTERFEITING, ENSHO TOOK THE TONSURE...

...AND TRIED TO ABANDON HIS WORLDLY DESIRES.

AND TO SEE THE TRADE AS A LIFELINE AND LIVELIHOOD, IT WAS VERY LIKELY HIS FATHER.

SO I SUSPECT HE MUST'VE HAD A RELATIVE WHO WAS A PAINTER.

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE SOMEONE ENTERING COUNTERFEITING WITHOUT IMPETUS,

BUT, OF COURSE, THIS IS ALL SPECULATION.

THAT SUGGESTS TO ME HE'D LOST HIS FATHER AND HAD NO OTHER FAMILY TO TURN TO...

...

YUP, THAT'S OUR HOLMES-SAN.

?

YES, WELL, AKIHITO-SAN DOES SEEM DESPERATE, SO PERHAPS WE SHOULD.

I CAN'T WAIT!

SO, ARE WE GOING TO SUZUMUSHI TEMPLE?

NOW, LET'S SEE...

I'LL BE IN KYOTO AND MIRACULOUSLY, I ACTUALLY HAVE A DAY OFF THEN.

ANYWAY.

HOW ABOUT NEXT SUNDAY?

WHAT'S WITH YOU TWO?

THERE A PROBLEM?

...SUNDAY?

NEXT...

A PRIOR ENGAGE-MENT?

BUT I'M AFRAID WE HAVE A PRIOR ENGAGEMENT THAT DAY.

I SEE YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE AN INVITATION, AKIHITO-SAN...

"YANAGIHARA SHIGETOSHI'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION"?

柳原重[illegible]
生誕祭

CHAPTER 17
END